

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-14 and 17-19. Please amend Claims 15 and 16. Please add new Claims 20-33. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition in a patient characterized by activation of an inflammatory cytokine cascade, comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a polypeptide comprising a high mobility group box protein (HMGB) A box or variant thereof which can inhibit release of a proinflammatory cytokine from a cell ~~treated with high mobility group box (HMGB) protein in an amount sufficient to inhibit release of the proinflammatory cytokine from the cell~~, wherein said HMGB A box is selected from the group consisting of an HMG1L5 A box, an HMG1L1 A box, an HMG1L4 A box, an HMGB A box polypeptide of BAC clone RP11-395A23, an HMG1L9 A box, an LOC122441 [[B]] A box, an LOC139603 A box, and an HMG1L8 A box.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition in a patient characterized by activation of an inflammatory cytokine cascade, comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide is a high mobility group box protein (HMGB) A box biologically active fragment or variant thereof which can inhibit release of a proinflammatory cytokine from a cell ~~treated with high mobility group box (HMGB) protein in an amount sufficient to inhibit release of the proinflammatory cytokine from the cell~~, wherein said HMGB A box is selected from the group consisting of an HMG1L5 A box, an HMG1L1 A box, an HMG1L4 A box, an HMGB A box

polypeptide of BAC clone RP11-395A23 [[A box]], an HMG1L9 A box, an LOC122441 A box, an LOC139603 A box, and an HMG1L8 A box.

17-19. (Canceled)

20. (New) The method of Claim 15 wherein said condition is sepsis.
21. (New) The method of Claim 15 wherein said condition is rheumatoid arthritis.
22. (New) The method of Claim 15 wherein said condition is selected from the group comprising endotoxic shock and allograft rejection.
23. (New) The method of Claim 15 wherein said HMGB A box is an HMG1L1 A box.
24. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said polypeptide comprising a high mobility group box protein (HMGB) A box or variant thereof is administered as a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
25. (New) The method of Claim 15, further comprising administering an antagonist of an early sepsis mediator.
26. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein said antagonist of an early sepsis mediator is an antagonist of TNF.
27. (New) The method of Claim 16 wherein said condition is sepsis.
28. (New) The method of Claim 16 wherein said condition is rheumatoid arthritis.

29. (New) The method of Claim 16 wherein said condition is selected from the group comprising endotoxic shock and allograft rejection.
30. (New) The method of Claim 16 wherein said HMGB A box is an HMG1L1 A box.
31. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein said polypeptide is administered as a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
32. (New) The method of Claim 16, further comprising administering an antagonist of an early sepsis mediator.
33. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein said antagonist of an early sepsis mediator is an antagonist of TNF.